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THE Feed SITUATION

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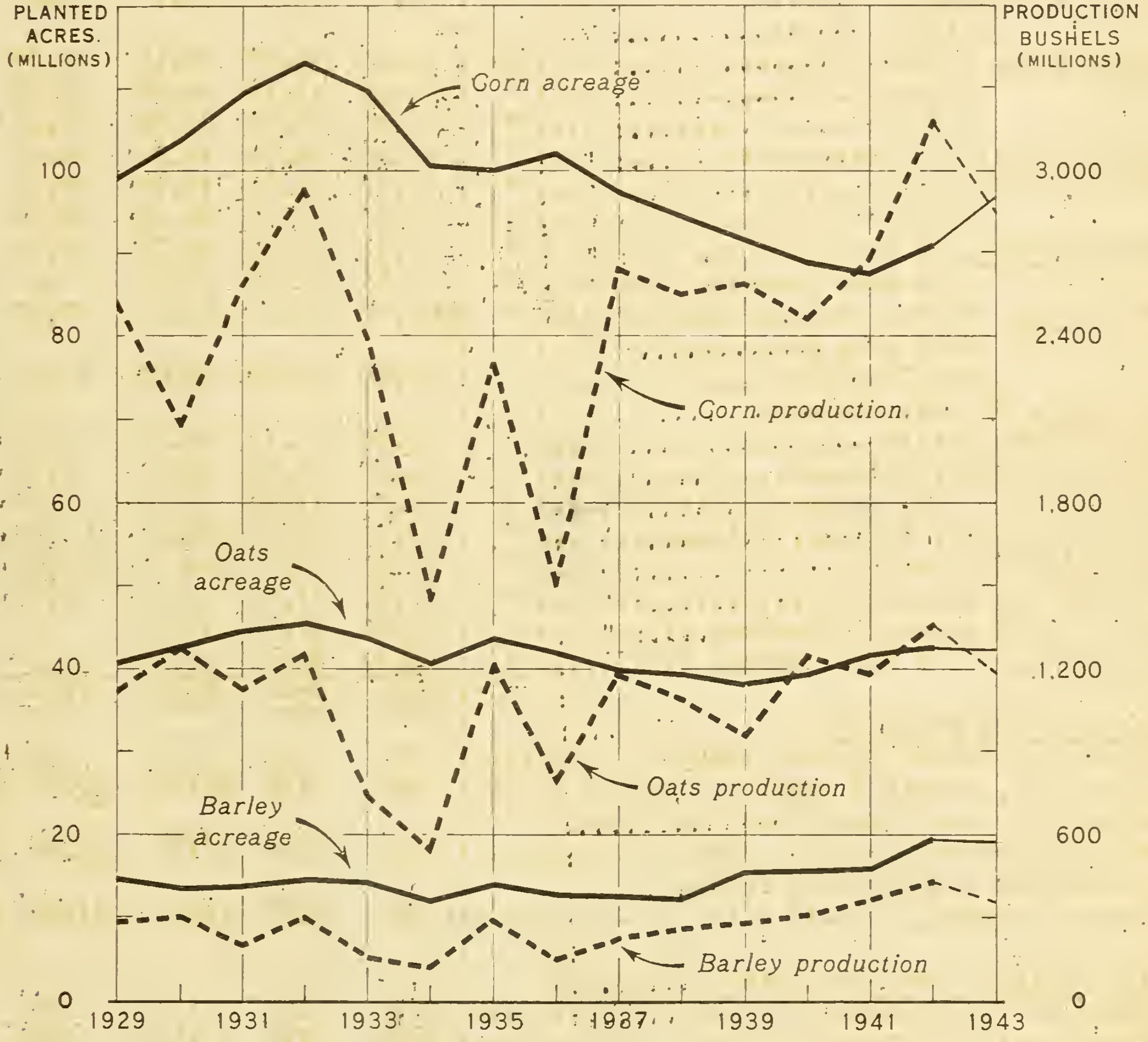
FdS-44 BAE MARCH 1943

FEED GRAINS: PLANTED ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES, 1929-43



1943 ACREAGE, PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS AS OF MARCH 1
1943 PRODUCTION BASED ON PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS MARCH 1 AND AVERAGE YIELD

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 42946 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Farmers indicated their intentions on March 1 to plant a 4 percent larger acreage in feed grains in 1943 than in 1942. However, if yields and acreage abandonment are the same as the average in recent years, production on the 1943 acreage would be 11 percent smaller than production last year, when yields were about the highest on record. This decrease in production would be equivalent to about 500 million bushels less corn, which would have to be offset by increased feeding of wheat, using reserve stocks of feed grains or importing feed grains from Canada, if livestock feeding is maintained at the 1942-43 level in 1943-44. (For data see table 8.)

Table 1.- Market prices of feeds and livestock-feed price ratios, March 1941, 1942, and January-March 1943

Item	Unit	Mar. 1941	Mar. 1942	1943 Jan.	1943 Feb.	1943 Mar. 1/
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Grains						
Corn No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Bu.	65.6	81.7	96.5	97.0	101.2
No. 3 Yellow, Kansas City	"	59.6	78.8	92.7	93.0	98.1
Oats No. 3 White, Chicago	"	38.6	54.0	58.7	60.2	64.3
No. 3 White, Minneapolis	"	34.6	51.5	56.5	57.7	59.5
Barley No. 3, Minneapolis	"	50.6	69.6	79.8	82.6	86.4
Wheat No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City	"	85.1	121.0	136.8	137.0	140.8
Rye No. 2, Minneapolis	"	52.4	75.5	74.7	79.2	83.6
Byproduct Feeds						
Standard bran, Minneapolis	Ton	21.10	35.20	36.10	35.75	37.7
Chicago	"	22.10	37.10	38.10	37.85	39.9
Buffalo	"	24.00	39.50	40.90	39.50	41.7
Standard middlings, Minneapolis	"	20.90	34.75	35.90	36.25	37.7
Chicago	"	22.30	36.60	37.95	38.55	39.9
Buffalo	"	23.60	37.90	40.25	39.30	41.7
Cottonseed meal, 41 pct. protein, Chicago	"	30.75	42.60	46.75	46.75	---
41 pct. protein, Memphis	"	24.45	37.00	38.60	---	38.7
Linseed meal, 34 pct. protein, Minneapolis	"	2/27.40	42.00	43.00	47.90	55.0
30-32 pct. protein, San Francisco	"	28.10	41.70	49.00	50.00	50.0
Peanut meal, 45 pct. protein, S. E. milling points	"	20.90	45.35	38.00	38.00	38.0
White hominy feed, Chicago	"	24.50	31.15	40.50	39.30	43.5
Gluten feed, 23 pct. protein, Chicago	"	20.75	31.60	32.50	32.50	32.5
Tankage, digester, 60 pct., Chicago	"	47.80	78.80	3/71.05	3/71.05	3/71.0
Meat scraps, Chicago	"	42.80	74.00	3/68.00	3/68.00	3/68.0
Fish meal, San Francisco	"	60.60	77.50	79.50	79.50	79.5
Brewers' dried grains, Milwaukee	"	20.50	32.10	37.00	---	---
Alfalfa meal, No. 1 fine, Kansas City	"	21.30	32.00	32.90	32.90	---
		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Indexes of Feed Prices 4/						
Feed grains, United States, 1910-14 = 100		87	123	134	139	5/143
Oilseed meal, terminal markets, 1935-39 = 100		90	138	6/131	6/134	6/7/136
Livestock byproduct feeds and fish meal, terminal markets, 1935-39 = 100		112	168	8/160	8/160	7/8/160
Ten principal high-protein feeds, terminal markets, 1935-39 = 100 9/		94	143	8/138	8/140	7/8/142
Indexes of Livestock-Feed Price Ratios 10/						
Hog-corn ratio, Chicago, 1920-39 = 100		89	126	130	126	11/118
Beef-corn ratio, Chicago, 1920-39 = 100		120	112	113	116	11/111
Butterfat-feed ratio, United States, 1920-39 = 100		102	86	106	110	5/106
Egg-feed ratio, United States, 1931-40 = 100		98	107	104	112	5/126

1/ Grain prices, average for week ended March 13, byproduct feed prices as of March 16. 2/ 37-percent protein. 3/ Bulk. 4/ For method and data for earlier months and years see issues of "The Feed Situation" for December 1941 and April 1942. 5/ Preliminary. 6/ Partly estimated. 7/ March 16. 8/ Includes some prices for bulk sales. 9/ Revised to exclude copra meal. 10/ Average for corresponding month in base period = 100. Index numbers above 100 indicate that ratios are favorable to livestock producers. See table 1, "The Feed Situation," February 1942. 11/ Week ended March 13.

THE FEED SITUATION

Summary

Principally because of an indicated increase in corn acreage, the prospective acreage of the four major feed grains for 1943 is 4 percent greater than the acreage planted in 1942. The combined production of the four feed grains on the 1943 indicated acreage, however, will be 11 percent smaller than in 1942, if yields are about the same as the average for the past few years. An 11 percent decrease in production of these grains would be equivalent to about 500 million bushels less corn. In order to maintain feeding operations in 1943-44 at the 1942-43 rato, it would be necessary to reduce reserve stocks of these grains, or to increase the quantity of wheat fed to livestock, or both.

The carry-over of corn is expected to approximate 500 million bushels next October 1. The carry-over on October 1, 1944 may be reduced to or below the 1928-37 average of 185 million bushels. Carry-over of oats and barley also may be reduced during 1943-44.

The 1943-44 production of oilcake and meal, based on prospective acreages of oilseeds for 1943, is expected to be larger than for the current season, but with a larger quantity of soybean meal used for food, the prospects are for a slightly smaller supply available for livestock feeding.

Permanent price ceilings were announced for corn by the Office of Price Administration, effective March 12. The permanent ceilings are at practically the same level as those set in the temporary order. Under the permanent order definite dollar-and-cent maximums have been established at leading terminal markets, with ceilings on prices at interior points and prices received by producers based on these maximums.

— March 25, 1943

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

BACKGROUND.- The acreage planted to the four feed grains was reduced 17 percent from 1932 to 1940 as farmers shifted from soil-depleting to soil-conserving crops. From 1940 to 1942 the increasing demand for feed resulted in a 6 percent increase in feed grain acreage. During the past 10 years hybrid corn has increased in importance, and in 1942 45 percent of the corn acreage in the United States and 72 percent in the North Central States was seeded to hybrids. The favorable growing seasons of the past few years, together with this increased acreage of corn hybrids, has made it possible to maintain or to increase corn production on a comparatively small acreage. Although production of feed grains has been unusually large during the past 2 years, demand has been very strong and prices have advanced to the highest level since the drought of 1936.

March 1 Intentions of Farmers Indicate a 4 Percent Increase in Feed Grain Acreage in 1943

In order to have more feed for the increasing numbers of hogs and poultry, farmers have indicated their intentions to plant 6 percent more acres of corn in 1943 than were planted in 1942. Much of the increase was indicated in the Corn Belt. The total acreage indicated for 1943 approximates 97 million acres, which is about 2 million acres over the acreage goal but about 3 million acres short of the total acreage expected early this year, when restrictions on corn acreage in the commercial corn area were lifted.

The intended acreages of oats, barley, and tame hay are about the same as last year and are above the 1943 acreage goals for these feeds. The prospective acreage of flaxseed is above the 1943 goal and the prospective acreage of soybeans to be harvested for beans is about the same as the goal.

Table 2.- Planted acreage of specified crops, 1937-42, and prospective plantings for 1943

Crop	Average 1937-41	1942	Indicated 1943	1943 as a percentage of 1942	1943 goals
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent	1,000 acres
Corn	91,977	91,011	96,827	106.4	95,000
Oats	39,644	42,662	42,638	99.9	37,300
Barley	14,291	19,448	19,306	99.3	18,000
All sorghums	17,263	16,109	16,594	103.0	1/
Soybeans for beans	2/ 4,121	2/10,762	3/12,143	112.8	12,000
Flaxseed	2,307	4,691	6,051	129.0	5,500
Peanuts, picked and threshed	2/ 1,818	2/ 3,690	4/ 4,270	115.7	5,500
Tame hay	2/57,194	2/60,211	60,270	100.1	59,000

1/ Goal for grain sorghums is 12 million acres, 23 percent above the 1942 acreage. 2/ Harvested acreages. 3/ Excludes estimate of acreage to be harvested for hay. 4/ Excludes estimate of acreage not picked and threshed.

One-Half of Government Feed Wheat Sold in the North Central Section

Of the 125 million bushels of Government owned wheat sold so far during the current marketing year, about 63 million bushels were sold in the North Central section. Reports from the county committeemen are not yet complete, but those received to date indicate that the quantities sold in the various regions were about as follows:

	Million bushels		Million bushels
North Atlantic	21	South Atlantic	7
East North Central	24	South Central	8
West North Central	39	Western	26

About 30 percent of the Government owned wheat sold in the United States was sold directly to farmers and the remainder was sold to feed mixers or dealers. It is estimated that of the 63 million bushels sold in the North Central section, about 10 percent was sold to large feed mixers. Some of the feed sold by these mixers was shipped to the Eastern and Southern States, making the total quantity of Government wheat fed in the North Atlantic and Southern States a little larger than indicated by these figures.

Permanent Ceiling Established for Corn

The Office of Price Administration announced permanent ceilings for corn, effective March 12, in Maximum Price Regulation 346. The maximum price for corn established by this permanent order is at practically the same level as the ceilings established by the temporary order. Under the permanent order definite dollar-and-cent ceilings have been established at the leading terminal markets, with ceilings at interior points based on these maximums.

Table 3.- Maximum cash and future prices per bushel of corn at principal markets

Market	Cash prices		Future prices			
	No. 2 Yellow	No. 2 White	May	July	Sept.	Dec.
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Chicago	1.02	1.23-1/2	1.01	1.03	1.05	1.01
Kansas City	.99	1.14	.98	1.00	1.02	.98
Omaha	.95	1.14				
Council Bluffs	.95	1.14				
St. Paul	.98	1.18				
Minneapolis	.98	1.18	.97	.99	1.01	.97
Peoria	1.01	1.22-1/2				
Sioux City	.94	1.14				
St. Louis and East St. Louis	1.02-3/4	1.21-1/4				
Duluth and Superior	1.01-1/4	1.21-1/4				
Milwaukee	1.02	1.23-1/2				
St. Joseph, Mo.	.99	1.14				

The maximum price for No. 1 corn is the same as the maximum for No. 2 corn. The maximum price for No. 3 corn is 1/2 cent less than No. 2; No. 4 is 1 cent less than No. 2; No. 5 is 1-1/2 cents less, and Sample grades, 2 cents less. The ceilings on cash prices shown here are effective until April 30. After that date price ceilings will be increased 1/2 cent on the 1st and the 15th of each month until November 30. On November 1 ceiling prices will return to the May 31 level.

Maximum prices on corn at interior markets are based on the ceilings at the markets shown above and on freight charges. The price ceiling on corn sold by growers shall be the ceiling price at the nearest shipping point less 2 cents per bushel, except where the sale is made to another farmer, in which case the ceiling is the same as the "on track" ceiling at the nearest shipping point.

Higher Loan Rates Announced for Barley and Grain Sorghums

The Commodity Credit Corporation has announced loan rates on the 1943 barley crop 15 to 20 cents higher than on the 1942 crop, and on the 1943 grain sorghum crop 20 to 32 cents higher. To be eligible for these loans farmers must plant not less than 90 percent of their war-crop goal. Loans will mature on demand but not later than April 30, 1944 for barley, and not later than June 30, 1944 for grain sorghums.

Table 4.- Loan rates per bushel on 1943 barley and grain sorghums stored on farms

Grade	Barley		Grain sorghums	
	California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington	All other States	Arizona and California	All other States
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
No. 1 ...	80	75	90	85
No. 2 ...	78	73	90	85
No. 3 ...	75	70	85	80
No. 4 ...	72	67	75	70
No. 5 ...	65	60		

A discount of 2 cents per bushel will apply on mixed grades. Loan rates for warehouse-stored barley and grain sorghums will be 7 cents less than the farm-stored loan rate.

100 Million Bushels of Government Wheat Released for Feed at Parity Price of Corn

The Department of Agriculture announced March 25 that 100 million bushels of wheat are available for sale for livestock feed at the current parity price of corn under the authorization recently granted by Congress. Prices at which this wheat will sell during March in the different areas will be as follows: North Atlantic region, $1.03 to $1.09; North Central region, $0.93 to $1.03; Southern region, $1.03 to $1.09; and Western region, $0.99 to $1.09 per bushel. Orders will be accepted from feeders for a quantity which, together with the quantity on hand, will not exceed a 3 months' supply. Orders will be accepted from local feed dealers for a quantity not in excess of 2 months' requirements, including the unsold quantity on hand.

OUTLOOK

Prospects for 1943-44 Feed-Grain Supply

Farmers indicated their intentions on March 1 to increase the total acreage planted in 1943 to corn, oats, and barley 4 percent over the 1942 level. With average yields on the prospective 1943 planted acreage of these three grains and with a 1943 grain sorghum crop about as large as in 1942, the production of the four feed grains would be about 11 percent less than the production in 1942. This would be equivalent to about 500 million bushels of corn. The total disappearance of feed grains during 1942-43 probably will be about as large as the 1942 production. Hence, if 1943-44 utilization of feed grains is to be maintained at the 1942-43 level, it would be necessary to reduce the reserve stocks of feed grains on hand, to increase wheat feeding, and to increase imports of feed grains from Canada.

An estimated 275 million bushels of wheat and 30 million bushels of rye probably will be fed during the 1942-43 marketing year, beginning July 1. The quantity of wheat fed in 1943-44 could be increased to 325 million bushels without reducing stocks of wheat at the close of the 1943-44 marketing year below 250 million bushels, which may be considered a minimum reserve. The quantity of rye fed may be increased to 60 million bushels. Total imports of oats and barley from Canada probably will increase somewhat in 1943-44, the extent depending largely on transportation facilities and 1943 production of feed grains in Canada and the United States.

After adjusting the 1943-44 disappearance of feed grains to allow for the prospective larger supplies of feed from the above sources, the carry-over of feed grains would be reduced to near the 10-year average prior to the ever-normal granary, as shown in table 5, if livestock feeding were maintained at a level no higher than in 1942-43.

However, livestock feed requirements may be somewhat greater next season than this, since the 1943 spring pig crop is expected to be 24 percent larger than in 1942 and poultry production is increasing. In this event, the carry-over of feed grains at the end of 1943-44 may be smaller than the figures indicated in table 5 unless yields per acre this year are above average.

Table 5.- Prospective 1943 production of feed grains compared with probable requirements

Crop	Prospective 1943 feed grain production and wheat and rye for feed	1943-44 disappearance with utilization at the same level as expected in 1942-43	Prospective deficit (-) or surplus (+)	Probable carry-over at the beginning of the 1943-44 marketing year	Carry-over at the close of the 1943-44 marketing year	1928-37 average carry-over
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels
Corn	1/ 2,850	3,167	- 317	500	183	185
Oats	1/ 1,180	1,327	2/- 127	225	3/ 150	160
Barley	1/ 357	407	2/- 40	100	60	4/ 40
Grain sorghums ..	1/ 105	107	- 2	---	---	---
Wheat fed ...	275	275	0	---	---	---
Rye fed	30	60	+ 30	---	---	---

1/ March 1 Prospective Plantings Report.
2/ Allows for an increase in imports of oats and barley from Canada.
3/ Adjusted upward to allow for increased feeding of rye.
4/ 1934-38 average.

Prospects for Production of Oilcake and Meal in 1943-44

Based on the intended acreages of soybeans, flaxseed, and peanuts for 1943 and the 1943 goal for cotton, the supply of oilseeds available for crushing in 1943-44 is expected to yield a little larger tonnage of oilcake and meal than will be produced during the present marketing year.

Table 6.- Prospective supply of oilcake and meal for 1943-44 compared with disappearance in recent years

Oilseed cake and meal	Apparent domestic disappearance for livestock feeding: Average 1937-41			1943-44 1/: Prospective production at assumed normal Yields	
	Average 1937-41	1941-42	1942-43 expected 1/	Prospective production at assumed normal Yields	Available for livestock feeding
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Soybean	1,286	1,825	3,300	4,050	3,425
Cottonseed	1,957	1,761	2,100	1,800	1,750
Linseed	481	891	850	825	825
Peanut	74	67	135	200	200
Total	3,798	4,544	6,385	6,875	6,200

1/ Tentative estimates.

However, when allowance is made for the increased quantity of soybean meal that will be used for food, it appears probable that the supply available for livestock feeding may not be more than 6,200,000 tons, slightly less than the expected 1942-43 disappearance, as shown in table 6. Supplies of other high-protein feeds are not expected to be much larger in 1943-44 than in 1942-43, livestock numbers are increasing, and a strong demand is to be expected for the limited supplies of high-protein feed in 1943-44.

Not Much Change in Feed-Grain Acreage in Prospect for North Atlantic States

March 1 intentions of farmers in the North Atlantic States indicate a 2 percent increase in corn acreage in this region, but slightly smaller acreages of oats and barley. Because of the increasing production of livestock in this area, farmers probably will depend on increased shipments of Government feed wheat in 1943-44 to take care of their increasing feed requirements. Some tightening of the general feed supply situation has developed in this area in recent weeks, partly due to the fact that sales of Government feed wheat were discontinued and feed dealers found it necessary to rely on the limited volume of corn and other feeds offered for sale. The release of an additional 100 million bushels of wheat will relieve the feed situation in this area, but feed costs may be increased, since the sale price on Government wheat is being increased from 85 percent of the parity price of corn to the full parity price.

Larger Corn Acreage in Prospect for the Corn Belt

An 8 percent increase in corn acreage in the East North Central region and a 12 percent increase in the West North Central region was indicated by farmers in the March 1 intentions report. Increases were general in all the Corn Belt States, with greatest increases indicated for the area west of the Missouri River. For the entire Corn Belt about the same acreage of oats and a slightly smaller acreage of barley were indicated for 1943 as compared with 1942.

The larger acreage of corn indicated for the Corn Belt reflects the increasing demand for corn resulting from the expanding production of hogs and poultry.

Under the present price relationship between corn and livestock, a strong demand for corn is in prospect for 1943-44, and it now appears probable that practically all 1943-44 supplies of corn available in the Corn Belt, after allowing for a mimimum carry-over at the close of the year, may be needed for livestock feeding and other uses in this area, leaving less than the usual percentage for shipment into other regions.

The March 1 intentions report indicates some shift from oats to corn in some of the Corn Belt States. This shift will aid in meeting the prospective tight feed situation, since corn yields considerably more grain per acre than oats in the commercial corn area.

Strong Demand for Feed in the South

The strong demand for feed which has developed in the South during the current feeding season is expected to continue in 1943-44. Farmers in this area have indicated their intentions to plant only slightly more corn and barley and slightly less oats than in 1942. In this event any further expansion in livestock production will depend to a considerable extent on the amount of feed wheat and other feeds that will be available for shipment to this area from the Corn Belt. Production of cottonseed may be somewhat smaller in 1943 than in 1942 unless cotton yield per acre is unusually good, and supplies of cottonseed cake and meal available for feeding may be down 10 to 20 percent.

Slightly Larger Barley Acreage Indicated in West

A 2 percent increase in the 1943 barley acreage and about the same corn and oats acreages as in 1942 were indicated by the planting intentions of farmers in the Western States. The barley acreage in prospect for this area is much larger than the average of the past 5 years. Average yields on this intended acreage would give a production of feed grains about 20 percent smaller than in 1942. Feed supplies large enough to maintain or to increase livestock production in this section in 1943-44 will depend largely on the extent to which wheat feed can be increased. A substantial increase in barley acreage is indicated for the Mountain States, but a decrease is in prospect for California and Oregon. A 45 percent increase in flaxseed is in prospect for California, which will aid in meeting the oilmeal shortage in this area, if yield per acre is average or better.

Table 7.- Production and stocks of specified byproduct feeds, February 1941 and 1942, and December 1942-February 1943

Item	Feb.		1942-43		
	1941	1942	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Production					
Cottonseed cake and meal	202.4	177.0	291.9	235.0	176.3
Soybean cake and meal	---	---	240.5	295.5	---
Linseed cake and meal	---	---	68.0	66.0	---
Peanut cake and meal	18.8	3.4	10.9	10.7	12.6
Gluten feed and meal	54.7	75.5	82.7	1/ 80.4	1/ 72.8
Brewers' dried grains	7.4	10.2	12.7	11.3	13.2
Distillers' dried grains	19.1	24.7	31.6	31.1	28.0
Wheat millfeeds	334.1	351.9	417.6	449.2	2/417.0
Stocks, end of month					
Cottonseed cake and meal	254.0	370.3	92.7	75.9	58.8
Peanut cake and meal	19.7	7.3	3.0	2.4	2.7

1/ Domestic grind.
2/ Preliminary.

Table 8.- Planted acreages of corn, oats, and barley by regions, 1937-43

Region	Corn Average 1937-41	Corn 1942	Corn Indicated 1943	Oats Average 1937-41	Oats 1942	Oats Indicated 1943	Barley Average 1937-41	Barley 1942	Barley Indicated 1943
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
North Atlantic	2,412	2,390	2,439	2,051	2,122	2,120	265	287	278
East North Central	19,794	19,469	20,958	9,929	10,407	10,348	1,143	1,132	942
West North Central	33,342	33,967	38,138	19,391	20,400	20,564	8,651	11,382	11,232
South Atlantic	11,742	10,426	10,515	1,734	2,258	2,234	166	260	259
South Central	22,683	22,860	22,875	4,320	4,992	4,894	845	1,661	1,756
Western	2,004	1,899	1,902	2,219	2,483	2,478	3,221	4,726	4,839
Total United States ..	91,977	91,011	96,827	39,644	42,662	42,638	14,291	19,448	19,306

Table 9.- Feed grains: Planted acreage, yield, and production, 1937-43

Year	Corn 1/ Planted acreage	Corn 1/ Yield per planted acre	Corn 1/ Production	Oats Planted acreage	Oats Yield per planted acre	Oats Production	Barley Planted acreage	Barley Yield per planted acre	Barley Production
	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels
Average 1937-41	91,977	28.1	2,582,151	39,644	28.5	1,129,976	14,291	20.0	285,540
1939 .	91,696	28.1	2,580,912	38,182	25.1	957,704	15,512	17.9	278,163
1940 .	88,913	27.7	2,462,320	39,224	31.8	1,245,388	15,627	19.8	308,944
1941 .	87,631	30.5	2,675,790	41,598	28.4	1,180,663	15,797	22.9	362,082
1942 .	91,011	34.9	3,175,154	42,662	31.8	1,358,730	19,448	21.9	426,150
1943 .	2/ 96,827		3/ 2,850,000	2/ 42,638		3/ 1,180,000	2/ 19,306		3/ 357,000

1/ For all purposes.
2/ Prospective plantings as of March 1.
3/ Based on March 1 prospective plantings with average yields and abandonment.

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